

# *The Redimere Museum of Art*



## Hudson River School

*(Thomas Cole & Albert Bierstadt)*

### ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Thomas Cole and Albert Bierstadt were among America's greatest landscape painters. Their paintings celebrated the majesty of mountains, forests, rivers, and skies and helped establish what became known as the Hudson River School. Through their art, they encouraged Americans to appreciate the beauty of the natural world.

Thomas Cole often painted peaceful valleys and dramatic skies, while Albert Bierstadt became famous for his enormous scenes of the American West. Their works captured the excitement of exploration and westward expansion during the nineteenth century.

Today, their paintings invite us to marvel at the grandeur of God's creation and remind us that beauty can be found in both quiet places and vast wilderness.



## RESOURCES:

### *Biographies to read:*

- Picturing America: Thomas Cole and the Birth of American Art by Hudson Talbott

### *Art resources:*

- The Hudson River School: Nature and the American Vision by Linda S. Ferber
- American Sublime: Landscape Painting in the United States 1820-1880 by Andrew Wilton & Tim Barringer

## BEFORE YOU LOOK:

Thomas Cole and Albert Bierstadt painted some of America's most beautiful landscapes. Before looking at their paintings, imagine:

- Towering mountains.
- Sunlight breaking through clouds.
- Waterfalls and rivers.
- Vast forests and valleys.
- Travelers discovering the American West.

### *Talk about it:*

- What makes a place beautiful?
- Why do people enjoy mountains and sunsets?
- How might an artist make a landscape feel grand?
- What colors do you expect to see?
- Where might your eye go first?



### *Lesson 3:*

#### TORN PAPER MOUNTAINS

**Materials:** cardstock, lots of construction paper/scrapbook paper/colored paper, glue, \*optional: chalk or white paint and sponges

- Show students a completed sample of a torn paper mountain range.
- Allow students to practice tearing paper. Draw attention to how sometimes it can leave a white edge and how allowing these edges to show can look like snow on a mountain. (*alternatively you can use chalk or white paint to mark the edges of the paper—see final tutorial*)
- Give each student time to select a piece of cardstock or background paper and tear mountain shapes. Let students place and layer the mountains until it's just how they want it before they glue.

**Tutorials:** [Sample 1](#), [Sample 2](#), [Quick Video Tutorial](#), and [Torn Paper Craft Mountains](#).

